

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the application and seek reconsideration thereof. In this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28 and cancel claim 5. Applicants do not add any new claims. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 6-29 are pending.

I. In the Specification

Applicants have amended the informalities identified by the Examiner in the specification. Specifically, Applicants have replaced "operational step" with "operation" at page 2, line 26, and replaced "two pair of a resistor and a capacitor" with "two pairs of resistors and capacitors" at page 8, line 14. Approval of this amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,486,820 issued to Allworth et al. ("Allworth"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To anticipate a claim, the Examiner must show that a single reference teaches each of the claims of that claim. Applicants submit that claim 1 as amended is allowable because amended claim 1 incorporates all the limitations of allowable claim 5 (now canceled). Moreover, Allworth's reference generator 417, characterized as the claimed on-chip reference voltage generator, does not include any block corresponding to the claimed voltage driver for stabilizing reference voltages (col. 6, lines 5 to 29). Thus, Allworth does not teach each of the elements of claim 1.

Analogous discussion applies to claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allworth in view of U.S. Patent 5,280,200 issued to Tarng ("Tarng"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must show the cited references, combined, teach or suggest each of the elements of a claim. Claims 2 and 23 respectively depend from claims 1 and 22 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to claims 1 and 22, Allworth does not teach or suggest each of the elements of claims 2 and 23.

The Examiner relies on Tarng for teaching the voltage level shifter. Assuming for the sake of argument that Tarng's level shift circuit is the claimed voltage level shifter, Tarng does not cure the defect of Allworth for failing to disclose the claimed voltage driver for stabilizing reference voltages. Thus, Allworth in view of Tarng does not teach or suggest each of the elements of claims 2 and 23. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 2 and 23 are requested.

Claims 3, 20, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allworth in view of U.S. Patent 6,657,484 issued to Bosshart ("Bosshart"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 3, 20, 21, and 24 respectively depend from claims 1 and 22 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to claims 1 and 22, Allworth does not teach or suggest each of the elements of claims 3, 20, 21, and 24. Moreover, Bosshart does not cure the defect of Allworth for failing to disclose the claimed voltage driver for stabilizing reference voltages. Thus, Allworth in view of Bosshart does not teach or suggest each of the elements of claims 3, 20, 21, and 24. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 3, 20, 21, and 24 are requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

In regard to claims 4, 6-19, and 25-29, these claims are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claims 1 and 22 has obviated the need to rewrite these claims in independent form. Thus, claims 4, 6-19, and 25-29 are allowable for at

least the reasons mentioned in regard to claims 1 and 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection claims 4, 6-19, and 25-29 are requested.

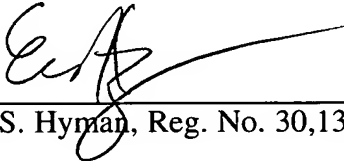
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

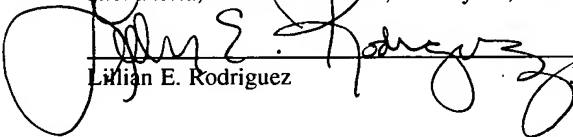
Dated: 7/11, 2005


Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 11, 2005.


Lilian E. Rodriguez

7-11-05
July 11, 2005